



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – March 4, 2009 Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Joseph F. Marie Department of Transportation

S. B. 1055 – An Act Requiring Vehicles to Yield to Public Transit Buses Exiting Bus Stops. (Department of Transportation proposal)

S.B. 1055 would require the driver of any vehicle on a highway to yield to any public transit bus that is (1) displaying a "Yield to Bus" decal and (2) indicating by its left-turn signal that it is exiting a bus stop.

This proposal further demonstrates the Department's commitment to improving transit travel times which results in higher ridership levels and better levels of fiscal efficiency for the bus services in the state. Travel times and on-time performance for public bus transit services are often negatively affected by the time it takes a bus to pull back out into traffic after making stops for pickup and discharge of passengers. The state of Oregon and the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia have laws requiring street traffic to yield to buses pulling out of bus stops after dropping off or picking up passengers. Their laws allow buses to maintain better schedule adherence, especially during the peak traffic periods. The resulting improved travel times improve reliability of the service and serve to attract more ridership.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.